

Augusta Regional Transportation Study Newsletter

Issue 20

June 2004

Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), FY 2005- 2007

The public is invited to review and comment on the draft FY 2005 - 2007 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) from May 20 – June 21, 2004. The ARTS area includes the urbanized portions of Richmond and Columbia County, GA and Aiken County, SC. The TIP is a prioritized list of transportation projects for the ARTS area. The TIP transportation projects include all road, bridge, transit, road related drainage and enhancement projects which receive 80% or more funding from federal and/or state sources. Please refer to pages two and three for the FY 2004-2006 TIP map and a list of projects.

The Draft TIP may be reviewed from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday - Friday at the following locations:

In Richmond County - Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission, 525 Telfair Street, (706) 821-1796.

In Columbia County - Columbia County Planning & Development Services, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, Georgia (706) 868-3400

In Aiken County - Aiken County Planning and Development, Suite 130, Kalmia Plaza, 1680 Richland Avenue West, Aiken, South Carolina (803) 642-1520.

Transportation Plan Update - Results of Public Meetings

The first round of public meetings for the ARTS Long Range Plan update was held on April 12th and 13th in Evans, Aiken and Augusta. The purpose of the meetings was to provide the public with information about the plan update process and solicit input on issues and concerns. Each meeting included an open house, a formal presentation, and a question and answer session. Graphic displays included maps of the study area, existing and future land use patterns, population and employment patterns, traffic counts, high accident locations, and projects in the current transportation plan.

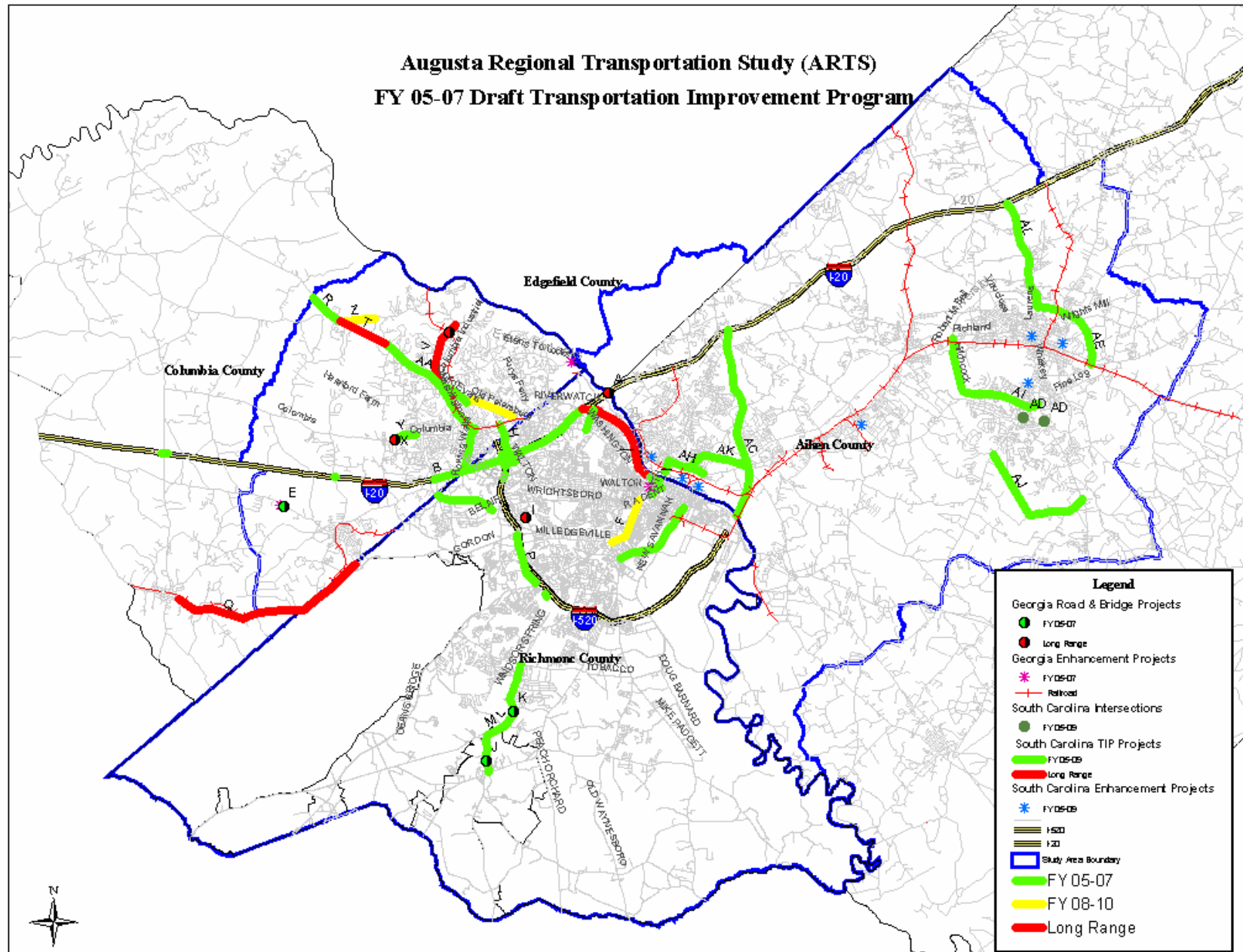
An interactive display gave attendees an opportunity to identify the three most important transportation-related issues. The three issues receiving the most votes were transportation options (i.e. public transit, biking, walking), economic development and roadway improvements. Other categories receiving votes included safety, mobility and environmental impacts. Written comments were received about the need for specific road and signalization projects, transportation for the disabled, methods for obtaining more public participation, the relationship between road projects and sprawl, and congestion.

The input received at the meetings will be used to ensure that the Plan's goals and objectives reflect citizen concerns, serve as a guide for further evaluation of the most important transportation issues, and be passed along to elected officials for their consideration. For more information about the Plan update project contact Paul DeCamp. You can also view a summary of public meetings on the project website at http://www.augustaga.gov/departments/planning_zoning/trans_arts.htm

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**Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS)
FY 05-07 Draft Transportation Improvement Program**



PROJECT	PI#	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT	PI#	PROJECT NAME
A	210327	Interstate 20 (SR 402) Bridge over Savannah River	U	250600	Flowing Wells Road Widen from Washington Rd to I-20
B	210570	Interstate 20 (SR 402) Widening			
C	210450	I-20 @ I-520 Interchange	V	245200	North Belair Road Widen from SR 104 to Fury's Ferry
D	0001794	Alexander Drive Widening			
E	0001795	Interstate 20 (SR 402) Drainage Improvements	W	245205	North Belair Road Bridge over CSX RR
F	220680	15th Street (SR 4) Widening			
G	250510	Wrightsboro Road Widening	X	0000809	Columbia Road (SR 232) Bridge over Crawford Creek
H	250560	Davis Road Widening	Y	231440	Columbia Road (SR 232) widen from Crawford Cr to CR223
I	250570	North Leg Road Bridge over CSX	Z	250620	William Few Parkway extend to Hardy McManus Rd
J	245325	Windsor Spring Road Bridge over NS Railroad	AA	231710	Washington Road (SR104) construct median
K	250615	Windsor Spring Road Bridge over Spirit Creek	AB	916190	Construct I-520 from I-20 to the Savannah River in South Carolina.
L	250610	Windsor Spring Road Widening from Willis Foreman to Tobacco Road	AC	7459	Pine Log widening from US 78 to SC 19.
M	245320	Windsor Spring Road Widening from Willis Foreman to SR 88	AD	12489	Knox Ave Widening from US 25 Business to SC 230.
N	262750	St. Sebastian Way/Greene Street Extension - Street, RR and related improvements at CSX RR and 15th Street	AE	12521	SC 118 widen from SC 19 to SC 302 / SC 4 at a new location.
O	232020	River Watch Parkway (SR 104) Construct median barrier from I-20 to 15th Street	AF	Not Assigned	Georgia Ave extension to the Savannah River.
P	210700	Bobby Jones Exwy. (I-520, SR 415) Widening	AG	Not Assigned	Dougherty Rd. @ Whiskey Rd. & Dougherty Rd. @ Silver Bluff Rd.
Q	221790	Gordon Highway (US 278 / 78, SR 10) Widen from SR 223 to existing 4 lane section in Harlem	AH	110051	E. Buena Vista Ave widen from West Ave to Martintown Road.
R	221805	Washington Road (SR104) Widen from CR 515 to CR 80	AI	24745	Install passing lanes from US 1 to SC 19.
			AJ	Not Assigned	Whiskey Rd-Silver Bluff Connector Road
S	250470	Old Petersburg Road Widen from Old Evans to Baston Road	AK	Not Assigned	Atomic Rd (SC 125) widen from Buena Vista Avenue to Jefferson Davis Highway (US 1/ 78).
T	262080	Washington Road (SR104) Widen from CR 383 to CR 515	AL	Not Assigned	SC 19 widen from SC 118 to I-20.
			AM	766	I-20 upgrades @ SR 47 & SR 388

Construction Update

Deans Bridge (US 1) & Tobacco Road: 90 % complete. Contractor is working on punch list items and completing final landscape items.

I-520 @ SR 56 (Mike Padgett Highway): 54 % complete. Contractor has completed both bridge sites through the poured decks and has completed post tensioning as well. Also, working on ramps throughout project.

Fury's Ferry Road: 31 % complete. Contractor continues to place water main along project. Also placing graded aggregate base and curb and gutter throughout project.

Dean's Bridge Road: 56 % complete. Contractor continues to work on median area along US 1. They are currently placing the bridge deck overlays at Butler Creek. This bridge work is 80 % complete at this time. Widening at several intersections is well underway.

US 25 (Peach Orchard Road): 91 % complete. Contractor continues to work on the Traffic Signal upgrades and wheelchair ramps at various intersections.

Bobby Jones Extension: 90 % complete. Bridge construction at both sites is complete. (Laney Walker and Sand Bar Ferry). The remaining pay items, including final paving, are underway at this time. Projected open to traffic is June 2004.

13 Signal Upgrades on Washington Road, Columbia Road and 2 county roads: 0 % complete.

Augusta Canal Update - The Fleet is Complete!

The William Phillips Petersburg Tour Boat Plies Augusta Canal

With the aid of a large construction crane and some muscle power on the guide-lines, *The William Phillips* wet its keel in the waters of the Augusta Canal on April 12. By week's end, the 65-foot vessel passed U.S. Coast Guard inspection and began ferrying delighted passengers on guided canal tours.

The custom-built tour boat joins sister ship, *The Henry Cumming* to round out the Augusta Canal Authority's fleet of electrically powered boats patterned on the old wooden cargo boats that plied the canal in centuries past. Today's fiberglass boats carry up to 49 passengers and two crew members, rather than the cotton and other farm produce of days gone by.

Like the *Cumming*, the *Phillips* was built on Tybee Island, Georgia by Rusty Fleetwood and his team at WGB Marine. The two six-horsepower electric motors propel the craft at speeds up to about six knots while two out drive motors aid in maneuvering the vessel and allow the boats to turn around easily in the narrow canal.

With the recent completion of a guide dock at the Lake Olmstead bulkhead, the boats now travel past the bulkhead and come within sight of the Augusta Waterworks pumping station, about half the canal's eight mile length. The narrated tour lasts approximately 60 minutes (weather and water conditions permitting) passing historic sites including the Confederate Powderworks Chimney, the Harris House and Archibald Butt Memorial Bridge before returning to Enterprise Mill and the Canal's Interpretive Center.

Enhancement Projects

The Georgia DOT awarded the following enhancement projects for Fiscal Year's 2005-2007:

- Columbia County received \$500,000 for Augusta Canal Historic Head gates Multi-Use Facilities (Columbia County)
- Columbia County received \$300,000 for the Uchee Creek Greenway Phase II – near Grovetown (city of Grovetown)
- Richmond County received \$600,000 for Phase III of the Augusta Canal Multi-Use Trail (Augusta Canal Authority)

Update on the Columbia County Long-Range Transportation Plan

The final draft of the Columbia County Long Range Transportation Plan is complete and now available for viewing on the Columbia County website (www.columbiacountyga.gov).

This is the culmination of an 18-month effort by TEI Engineers and Planners of Atlanta, Georgia to determine the long-range needs for the whole of Columbia County, including the portion within the ARTS planning boundary. Funding of the study came from the Georgia Department of Transportation and from Columbia County.

Highlights of the Plan:

- To relieve the expected congestion arising from growth between now and 2025, a total of over \$338 million in transportation improvements are suggested.
- Most projects call for expansion of existing roadways; however, there are two new road projects: the expansion of William Few Parkway between Hardy McManus Road and Riverwood Parkway and the William Few Connector between William Few Parkway and Hereford Farm Road.
- The most expensive project (over \$72 million) calls for the widening of I-20 from 4 lanes to 6 lanes from Apppling-Harlem Highway to Belair Road.
- The projects with the highest priority for attention includes Washington Road from William Few Parkway to Belair Road, Fury's Ferry Road from Evans to Locks to Hardy McManus Road, and Columbia Road from William Few Parkway to Hereford Farm Road.
- In addition to road expansion projects, several intersections are proposed for improvement to maintain the existing highway system.
- 10 bridge replacements due to existing deficiencies
- Over 20 bicycle and pedestrian projects are proposed totaling over \$50 million.

In addition to the long range plan, TEI also performed corridor analyses for 9 corridors, including Wrightsboro Road, Hereford Farm Road, and Evans to Locks/Steven Creek Road among others. The findings for those analyses show several areas where immediate improvements should be given to intersections and safety concerns and will be used for programming in the upcoming SPLOST reauthorization. Most improvements consist of the installation of turning lanes and attention to striping and signage to enhance safety.

The plan is available for review and comment. Final adoption of the plan is scheduled in Early Summer.

Whiskey/ Silver Bluff Connector Road Committee

The Whiskey/ Silver Bluff Connector Committee, which is made up of Aiken County Councilmen, Aiken City Councilmen, and citizens, selected route 3 with recommended alterations as their preferred route. The Committee analyzed each route based on six factors: property impact, environmental concerns, connectivity, cost, traffic impact, and access. The six factors were scored and then multiplied by their relative weight in comparison to the other factors as determined by the Committee. This weighted score was used to rank the routes and determine the recommended route. The selected route will be recommended for testing in the Long Range Transportation Plan update.

Aiken County Public Involvement

Aiken County Transit and Transportation Planning staff traveled to the Career Day at Aiken Technical College, to the Senior Spectacular at the Odell Weeks Center in Aiken, and to Kid's Earth Day in North Augusta. Between the three events, we reached approximately 200 people, and hopefully, we increased their awareness of transit and transportation activities.

ARTS CALENDAR

Augusta meetings are usually held on the 8th Floor of the Municipal Building at 530 Greene Street. Please call ARCPC (706) 821-1796 to verify time and place.

JULY 2004

NO MEETINGS

AUGUST 2004

CAC/TCC: 11TH, 10:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 2004

**CAC/TCC: 8TH, 10:00 A.M.
POLICY: 2ND, 11:00 A.M.**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

The Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission website is an excellent source of information. All meeting agendas are posted here for your convenience. The address is:
http://www.augustaga.gov/departments/planning_zoning/default.htm

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